

Claims

- [c1] A humidifier suitable for placement near a source of heated air comprising
- (A) a reservoir for holding water, said reservoir having an opening on top;
 - (B) a rod having a length sufficient to extend across said reservoir; and
 - (C) means attached to said reservoir for holding said rod horizontally in a position higher than said reservoir and displaced horizontally away from said reservoir, where one end of at least one paper towel can be draped over said rod and the other end of said at least one paper towel can be inserted through said opening into water in said reservoir, whereby air flowing from said source impinges upon said at least one paper towel.
- [c2] A humidifier according to Claim 1 wherein said reservoir is made of plastic.
- [c3] A humidifier according to Claim 1 wherein said reservoir is rectilinear.
- [c4] A humidifier according to Claim 3 wherein said rectilin-

ear reservoir is about 3 to about 4 inches deep, about 11 to about 12 inches wide, and about 3 to about 4 inches high.

- [c5] A humidifier according to Claim 1 wherein said means is two opposing panels that attach to said reservoir and have opposing apertures therethrough into which said bar can be inserted.
- [c6] A humidifier according to Claim 5 wherein there are a multiplicity of opposing apertures through said panels so that said bar can be inserted at various positions.
- [c7] A humidifier according to Claim 5 wherein said side panels are about 11 to about 12 inches long and about 11 to about 12 inches high.
- [c8] A humidifier according to Claim 1 wherein said air source is a radiator, a convector, or a baseboard heater over which said humidifier is positioned.
- [c9] A humidifier according to Claim 1 wherein said reservoir holds about $\frac{1}{4}$ to about $\frac{1}{2}$ gallon of water.
- [c10] A humidifier according to Claim 1 including a disposable paper towel that is at about 11 wide and about 13 inches long.
- [c11] A humidifier according to Claim 1 wherein said source is

a register in a floor and said rod is positioned so that said paper towel is at an angle to the floor.

- [c12] A humidifier according to Claim 1 including a cover that is supported by said reservoir.
- [c13] A humidifier according to Claim 1 wherein only a single paper towel is draped over said rod and inserted into said water.
- [c14] A humidifier according to Claim 1 wherein multiple paper towels can be draped over said rod and inserted into said water.
- [c15] A humidifier according to Claim 1 including a supplemental water source that automatically supplies water to said reservoir whenever the level of water in said reservoir is low.
- [c16] A humidifier according to Claim 15 wherein said supplemental water source comprises an inverted bottle containing water that is connected by a tube to said reservoir.
- [c17] A method of humidifying air comprising placing a humidifier according to Claim 1 near a source of heated air, whereby air from said source impinges upon a paper towel draped over said rod.

[c18] A free-standing humidifier for use with an air register in a floor comprising

- (A) a rectilinear reservoir for holding water, where said reservoir has an opening on top and can be placed next to said air register on said floor;
- (B) panels that attach to each side of said reservoir and extend about 5 to about 8 inches higher than said reservoir and extend horizontally about 5 to about 8 inches beyond said reservoir;
- (C) at least two opposing apertures through said panels that are higher than said reservoir and are over said air register;
- (D) a rod inserted through said opposing apertures, whereby one end of a single paper towel is inserted into water held in said reservoir and the other end of said single paper towel is held by said rod; and
- (E) a flat cover that rests on said reservoir.

[c19] A free-standing humidifier according to Claim 18 wherein a supplemental water source automatically supplies water to said reservoir whenever the level of water in said reservoir is low.

[c20] A free-standing humidifier for use with an air register in a floor comprising

- (A) a rectilinear reservoir for holding water, where

said reservoir has an opening on top and can be placed next to said air register on said floor;

(B) a water inlet that provides a continuous source of water to said reservoir;

(C) a valve on said water inlet that is controlled by a float on water in said reservoir, where said valve opens when the level of water in said reservoir falls and closes when the level of water in said reservoir rises; and

(D) means attached to said reservoir for holding one end of at least one paper towel in a position that is higher than said reservoir and is displaced in a horizontal direction from said reservoir.